01 | Research Outline
The NZASM – Footsteps
Along the Tracks (FAT) Project

Entities
- *Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in South Africa : Shared Cultural Heritage Programme*
- *University of Pretoria : Department of Architecture*
- *University of Pretoria : Enterprises*

International Framework

The *Footsteps Along the Tracks* shared heritage project was conducted within the frameworks of the 1996 *Agreement between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Republic of South Africa on cooperation in die fields of Education and Science, Arts and Culture, Health, Welfare and Sport*; and the 2004 intergovernmental *Programme of Implementation : Accommodate Cultural Diversity. The challenge of common cultural heritage. (Implementation Framework on the Common Cultural Heritage of South Africa and the Netherlands)*. These documents from the basis for the Shared Heritage Programme of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. [See http://culturalheritageagency. nl/en/cultural-heritage/shared-cultural-heritage/ shared-cultural-heritage-programme].
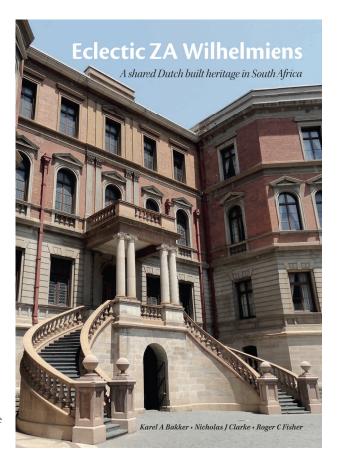
Research Outline

The entities, namely the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in South Africa–Shared Cultural Heritage Programme and the University of Pretoria–Enterprises entered into contract on 2015 11 06 (See Appendix 1) with the following as objectives and condition:

The University of Pretoria recently (2014) concluded the successful ZA-Wilhelmiens Shared Cultural Heritage project in collaboration with the Royal Netherlands Embassy. That project was a first re-appraisal of the built legacy of Dutch architects and engineers active in southern Africa towards the end of the 19th Century.

As part of the aforementioned project a first survey was undertaken of the residue of the Eclectic ZA-Wilhelmiens buildings and infrastructure. This included the buildings of the Netherlands South African Railway Company (NZASM), which was active in the former South African Republic (ZAR) until the Second Anglo–Boer War brought an end to their concessions.

During the first survey a vast number of new, previously unknown structures were discovered. In towns such as Volksrust, Standerton and Vereeniging entire staff compounds exist, many of these still in the ownership of the South African Railways, Transnet, and still in use as housing. In most instances this built heritage is well used, but at risk due to a lack of awareness of its significance. Other built heritage of this historical enterprise is also at risk, not only through decay but also through development. In 2012 the South African Government announced the Rail Recapitalisation Project, which will see the investment of R300-billion in new rolling stock as well as the

Eclectic ZA Wilhelmiens

A shared Dutch built heritage in South Africa

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01.01 (Left):
The researchers following the Footsteps along the Tracks (Swart, 2016)

01.02 (Right):
The book *Eclectic ZA Wilhelmiens : A shared Dutch Built Heritage in South Africa* (Bakker, Clarke & Fisher [eds], 2014). This is first study of the built environment in the Shared Heritage Programme.

consequent upgrade of the extant infrastructure. This means that stations and other buildings might well be either decommissioned or altered. It is important to know what important cultural heritage still exists and to make this information available to allow for informed decisions.

The Department of Arts and Culture has developed the South African Heritage Resources information System (SAHRIS), an online heritage inventory system of the South African Heritage Resources Agency. See: http://www.sahra.org.za/sahris/.
This database is the official online management tool for local and national heritage resources. It allows for the entry of sites into the national inventory and also hosts digital application processes for activities defined under the National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999).

Populating the SAHRIS with NZASM heritage sites is the most effective way of formally listing the structures, provide information as to their significance and generally raise awareness among all stakeholders for their future sustainable use.

Adding information to the SAHRIS is a collaborative process with the SAHRA and the Department of Arts and Culture and supports their endeavours. The SAHRIS is however not a well known resource and therefore a selection of 15 prime sites or ensembles will be added to the www.dutchfootsteps.co.za website, under a new tab for NZASM heritage, with hyperlinks to the SAHRIS entries.

This object of the FAT Project was to:
- identify and photo-document up to two hundred of these built structures through desktop study and fieldwork;
- undertake archival research (Transnet Archives, Johannesburg);
- create a digital database of these structures (from which other actions will be undertaken);
- formally notify the SAHRIS of the intent to create two hundred new entries on the database.
- create entries on the SAHRIS for all two hundred structures documented. This includes undertaking an assessment of their legal protection under the National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999);
- disseminate information about these structures through both digital and print media. The extant platform Dutch Footsteps (www.dutchfootsteps.co.za) will be adapted to house a NZASM tab, and populated; and
- compile and publish a research report both in hard copy and electronically.

The aim of the FAT Project is not only to document the structures but also have a wider application by providing the requisite information to assist in the future planning of this shared heritage. By listing of the sites on the SAHRIS database, their heritage value and legal status is accessible in the public domain. This assists property owners (including Transnet), local and regional government and statutory bodies such as Provincial Heritage Authorities to ensure that they conform with the statutory requirements pertaining to these sites and so help inform future planning. Providing information as baseline for further interaction between South Africa and the Netherlands through the Shared Cultural Heritage Programme. Since much of this built heritage is located in outlying towns and villages in remote areas, the identification and appreciation of this heritage can form the basis for the redevelopment of these important regional centres. The dissemination of the data generated by this project will increase the tourism potential, especially through the web-based hosting of the data.

The project was undertaken to address the following criteria as set out in the *Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in South Africa : Dutch Shared Cultural Heritage Programme - Call for Proposals*
(Call date: 2015 06 17; deadline date 2015 07 20):
- Specialist considerations such as cultural significance, uniqueness, representativeness and urgency of the need to take action:
- The NZASM heritage is at risk, primarily because of either use without appropriate maintenance or a lack of awareness of significance by the owner/s. The Rail Recapitalisation Programme of South Africa could either threaten or support the cultural value of the NZASM built residue. A positive outcome cannot be expected unless information about this valuable shared heritage is made readily accessible.
- Sustainability: a definite utilisation plan for the project concerned, including maintenance:
- The data generated is hosted online and presented to TRANSNET, thus allowing for it to be utilised in the future development of the South African rail infrastructure.
- The extent of knowledge transfer on technical and policy issues:
- The project will present the legal status of the structures reported to. This has the potential inform policy and technical considerations.
- Raising awareness and strengthening local support for sustainable preservation:
- There is currently little knowledge locally available on these structures. The project will address this.

- Accessibility to the general public:
- Though hosting all the information on the internet all the data generated will be publically accessible.

- Economic spin-off for the partner country, e.g. new jobs, boost for tourism and education, increased expertise on maintaining, managing and exploiting cultural heritage:
- The tourism potential of the railways heritage of South Africa is severely underdeveloped. The project will provide a solid base for future development in this regard. This can have a positive impact in the maintenance, through exploitation, of these heritage resources.

- The image of the Netherlands in the partner country; the extent of spin-off effects for Dutch companies and cultural heritage institutions, export of Dutch expertise and services:
- The project will not directly benefit Dutch companies of heritage institutions, but, like the ZA-Wilhelmiens Project (Executed by the Department of Architecture at the University of Pretoria in collaboration with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in South Africa, 2011–2014), unlock potential for future involvement. The project will benefit the impact of the Netherlands in South Africa by showcasing the wealth of the historic contribution made the development South Africa as well as the continued commitment of the Netherlands to the development of South Africa. It will importantly showcase how useful this heritage is to everyday South-Africans who have made this heritage their homes.

- Increase in Dutch expertise in the area of cultural heritage:
- Very little information on the NZASM and its built residue is available in the Netherlands. The project will disseminate this information to Dutch Stakeholder, increasing interest in this built heritage and allowing for greater potential for future research and development of expertise.

Methodology and Deliverables
A detailed, step-by-step account of the methodology is presented below:

Phase One: Project Inception and Contracting
Purpose:
To reach an agreement on the work to be undertaken and to capture this in an inception report and a contract to be signed-off by the client and the service provider.

Activities:
- Liaise with the project manager of the client.
- Attend of a meeting (at least two members of the core BE at UP team) to clarify, discuss and reach agreement on all aspects around

the study and the deliverables. During this session an agreement was reached on:
(1) the project objectives, approach, outcomes and management;
(2) roles and responsibilities regarding the assignment;
(3) rights and access to the www. dutchfootsteps.co.za website;
(4) involvement of students; and
(5) internal and external project communication processes, captured in an inception report.
- Liaise (electronically) with the SAHRA to inform them of the intention of listing sites on the SAHRIS database.
- Prepare the contract in accordance with the agreements reached, and ensuring that it is signed-off by both parties.

Deliverables/Milestones:
- The contract, signed-off by Enterprises at UP and the client.
- The formalisation of logistical arrangements regarding amongst others, meetings and feedback sessions between the service provider and the three partners.

Phase Two: Scoping including Desktop Study
Purpose:
To:
- undertake a desktop review and archival search for relevant information as base to:
- create a database capturing the data, for the field work;
- create a NZASM Built heritage database; and
- modulate the www.dutchfootsteps.co.za website to accommodate the new data.

Activities
- The detailed project design based on the briefing session and the inception report, which will entail the preparation of a project roll-out strategy, and data-gathering schedules.
- The holding of a strategic workshop with IT specialist and the Royal Netherlands Embassy to inform the alteration of the www.dutchfootsteps.co.za website and the creation of the MS-Access database which forms the core of the project.
- The conducting of a comprehensive desktop study, including Transnet Archives, of extant published and archival material to inform identify potential buildings and sites to be fisted during the field expeditions.
- The inputting of this data into the database for field-verification.
- The scheduling of dates for project meetings, community engagements, data-gathering, possible focus group sessions and

delivery of project deliverables.

- Engaging between the service provider and the client so as to assist in the identification of preparation and finalisation of the project and associated research design.
- Conducting core project team work-sessions, including meetings with the expert advisors to the core BE at UP team.

Deliverables/Milestones:
- Desktop Study Report.
- MS-Excel Database (populated with outcomes of desktop study).
- Project execution and research strategy, programme, and data-gathering schedules.

[All of these were discussed with and signed off by the client prior to the project being rolled out, and the research being undertaken.]

Phase Three: Data-gathering
Purpose:
To undertake a data-gathering and analysis process required field trips in order to visit all the identified sites, and seek to identify additional sites.

Activities:
- Conduct the research in accordance with the deliverables as specified in the Inception Report prepared in Phase One.
- Test the accuracy of the information compiled in the desktop review.

- Visit, identify and record extant NZASM buildings along the six historical NZASM Lines:
  - The Rand Tram
  - The Southern Line
  - The Eastern Line
  - Barberton Branch Line
  - The South Eastern Line
  - The South Western Line

This includes:
  - Photo-documentation
  - GPS coordinates
  - State of conservation
  - Current occupation/use where possible
  - Current legal status under the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999).

Deliverables/Milestones:
All sites have been visited and documented.

Phase Four: Data synthesis, and IT and Web activities
Purpose:
To synthesise the data, input it into a digital database and transfer this database to the SAHRIS platform. Additionally to select 15 sites or ensembles to add to the www.dutchfootsteps.co.za web-platform.

01.03 The Transnet Heritage Archive, Johannesburg, contains much information on the NZASM, a lot of which has never been accused and catalogued.

Activities:

- Compile the research findings and add them to the SAHRIS digital database, including the photographs, GPS locations, conditions reporting and legal status.
- Select twenty sites and transfer their data to the www.dutchfootsteps.co.za website.
- Prepare a research report outlining the findings and the outcomes of the analyses.
- Hold regular meetings with the IT specialist to tweak the website look and feel and ensure the product meets the expectations of the project.

Deliverables/Milestones:

- Two digital tools:
  - a MS-Excel database containing all information gathered;
  - two hundred new entries on the SAHRIS Database.
- Re-launch of the www.dutchfootsteps.co.za website with twenty new entries under a new category: NZASM.

Phase Five: Report layout and typesetting including peer-review
Purpose:
To:

- compile the information into a paper-based report, with layout by a professional typesetter to be published by an independent publisher; and
- ensure a peer-review of the document by two independent experts.

Activities:

- Provide all relevant information in text format to the book typesetter.
- Acquire an ISBN number for the book.
- Engage with two peer-reviewers to review the outcomes of the project.

Deliverables/Milestones:

- Print ready peer-review document to be published by an independent publisher.

Phase Six: Report layout and typesetting including peer-review
Purpose:
To:

- produce hard copy versions of the final report;
- disseminate the data and report (UP E-books on www.repository.up.ac.za);
- hand over the final report, and website; and
- close-out the project.

Activities:

- Print and binding the final report.
- Upload the final report in PDF format onto the UP Institutional Repository.
- Hand over the products to the Royal Netherlands Embassy.
- Provide the MS-Excel database to other online portals that deal with South African built heritage and Dutch Shared Heritage as well as the major property-owner: Transnet.
- Provide final project reconciliation to the client.
- Close the project.

Deliverables/Milestones:

- 30 hard copy documents with distribution to:
  - Royal Netherlands Embassy South Africa [8];
  - South African National Library [5];
  - Het Nationaal Argief, the Hague, the Netherlands [2];
  - Koninklijke Bibliotheek, the Netherlands [2];
  - Het Spoorwegmuseum, Utrecht, the Netherlands [3];
  - Department of Architecture at UP [6];
  - Transnet [2];
  - Zuid-Afrikahuis Library, Amsterdam, the Netherlands [2].
- Open-access Pdf E-publication.
- Hand-over event.
- Project closure.